GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:90
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
GM Mustard
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of field trials and commercial cultivation of Genetically Modified (GM) mustard in the country;
(b) whether commercial cultivation of GM mustard is being opposed by various quarters in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the efforts made to address the concerns raised in this regard;
(c) whether the Government has held any consultation with the stakeholders including experts and farmers in this regard and if so, the details and outcome thereof;
(d) whether the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) or its subCommittee has made scientific assessment on the safety aspect of GM mustard and if so, the details and findings thereof; and
(e) the steps being taken to ensure that scientific evidence and larger interests of consumers and farmers are taken into consideration while deciding the commercial cultivation of GM mustard in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 90 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.11.2016 REGARDING GM MUSTARD BY SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT & DR. P. VENUGOPAL.

(a) At present no field trials are underway for GE Mustard. The Centre for Genetic Manipulation and Crop Plants (CGMCP), University of Delhi South Campus has submitted application for environmental release of GE Mustard which has undergone bio safety assessments for necessary examination by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC).

(b) & (c) Some concerns and apprehensions have been raised by a group of Non Government Organisations(NGOs) on the biosafety of GE Mustard. To understand the concerns of NGOs, GEAC provided an opportunity to two groups of NGOs to share their concerns during the 129th GEAC meeting held on June 20, 2016. Another meeting was held on July 18, 2016 to hear the concerns of a group of NGOs, who could not present their views during 129th GEAC due to paucity of time.

(d) & (e) All genetically engineered products are assessed through various statutory bodies for food and environmental safety in accordance with Rules for the manufacture, use/import/export and storage of hazardous microorganisms/ genetically engineered organisms or cells 1989 (Rules 1989) made under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. As per Rules 1989, a step by step process for assessment of food and environmental safety is being followed and the application for commercial cultivation of GE Mustard is under examination by GEAC.

GEAC in its 126th meeting held on 04.01.2016 reviewed the application submitted by CGMCP, Delhi University South Campus and constituted a Sub-Committee to review the dossier. Accordingly, the Sub-Committee prepared an Assessment of Food and Environmental Safety (AFES) document and submitted to GEAC for its evaluation.

The AFES document prepared by Sub-Committee on GE Mustard was placed on the website of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC)for a period of 30 days from September 05, 2016 to October 05, 2016 for inviting public comments from stakeholders. Entire dossier submitted by CGMCP, University of Delhi South Campus was also made available for review by public during the consultation period. A total of 759 comments have been received from the various stakeholders and 29 people in person have reviewed the dossier.

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